

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 7-12.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for providing metered capacity of a plurality of processors on demand in a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the plurality of processors in the computer system, the computer system performing the steps of:

(A) determining total processor usage of the plurality of processors in the computer system across a plurality of logical partitions;

(B) determining base processor usage of the plurality of processors in the computer system across the plurality of logical partitions;

(C) when the total processor usage determined in step (A) exceeds the base processor usage determined in step (B), performing the steps of:

expiring all timed-out usage windows for all of the plurality of processors;

selecting one of the plurality of processors;

when the selected processor is unbilled, determining whether there is unused billed capacity assigned to one of the other of the plurality of processors;

when there is unused billed capacity assigned to one of the other of the plurality of processors, assigning the unused billed capacity assigned to the one of the other of the plurality of processors to the selected processor; and

when there is no unbilled capacity assigned to any of the other of the plurality of processors, billing a predetermined resource-time for the selected processor.